



“Building Communities Together”

A Networking Tool of HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships

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SuperNOFA Released February 24, Available Now!

HUD released its SuperNOFA — Super Notice Of Funding Availability — on February 24. **This year's SuperNOFA announces over \$2.4 billion of funding availability in 39 HUD grant programs.** Virtually all of HUD's competitive grant programs, from Fair Housing Education and Outreach, to construction of supportive housing for the elderly, to drug elimination in multifamily properties, are announced in the SuperNOFA

In the past, HUD had conducted as many as 40 separate annual grant competitions—each with its own application deadline, processing requirements and selection criteria, which made the task of applying for HUD grants very burdensome for nonprofits and others.

The SuperNOFA has dramatically changed HUD's competitive grant process to make it easier for potential grantees, including nonprofits, to learn about and apply for HUD's competitive grants. The SuperNOFA provides program requirements in plain language and has eliminated unnecessary paperwork. In addition, the SuperNOFA is predictably issued each year some time between January and March.

The SuperNOFA emphasizes coordination of activities and leveraging local resources to meet local housing and community development needs. The SuperNOFA process also strongly encourages the formation of partnerships, so that each recipient organization can concentrate on its strengths, doing what it does best, while cooperating or con-

tracting with other specialized agencies for their unique services. In order to demonstrate that a proposal is designed to meet local priorities, SuperNOFA applicants must include certification from the local jurisdiction that their applications are consistent with the local Consolidated Plan.

The following factors are considered in awarding grants:

Capacity asks whether or not you have access to the staffing and administrative resources necessary to successfully implement the planned activities and manage the grant properly.

Need/Extent of the Problem asks you to describe the problem and its severity. It also asks whether the problem you propose to address has been identified as a priority by the community.

Soundness of Approach asks what you plan to do to address the problem. In various ways, it asks whether or not what is planned makes sense, is feasible, and is likely to produce positive results related to the problem.

Leveraging Resources asks what resources, beyond those provided by the HUD grant, you plan to use in implementing your proposed activities.

Comprehensiveness and Coordination asks how your proposed activities relate to other activities/strategies taking place in the community. It also asks the extent to which you are involved in broader discussions about how community resources are allocated.

Center to Hold SuperNOFA Satellite Broadcast

As part of the Center's ongoing effort to serve as a resource for community and faith-based groups, the Center will hold a **SuperNOFA Satellite Broadcast on Tuesday, March 28 from 10:00-12:30.** Since the Center is not currently a funding source, the broadcast will provide an overview of particular programs and issues of interest for community and faith-based organizations. The Center's broadcast will provide a forum for community and faith-based nonprofits to learn from various HUD program areas about ways to build partnerships and access HUD funding. The broadcast will also include success stories from previous grant awardees on both the local and national level.

Tune into the Center's broadcast and other SuperNOFA broadcasts, which are aired live on HUD's web site, <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/livecast.html>. In addition, the training will be archived on HUD's web site after the initial broadcast, so it will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to anyone interested in HUD's programs. Frequently, local HUD offices also provide screenings of SuperNOFA broadcasts. Organizations, particularly those without internet access, should contact their local HUD field office for more information.

The Center's web site, www.hud.gov/cdc.html, will provide additional SuperNOFA updates and resources for community and faith-based nonprofits.

Interview with HUD's Barbara Dorf on the SuperNOFA Process

For the past three years, Barbara Dorf has overseen the tremendous project of consolidating the bulk of HUD's competitive grant programs into the SuperNOFA, which announces the majority of HUD's competitive grant programs that provide direct funding to nonprofits. As many Center constituents consider whether to apply for grants announced in the SuperNOFA, or are busy working on their applications, the Center asked Barbara to share her expertise on how community and faith-based nonprofits should approach the process.

Q: How do community and faith-based groups find out what is in the SuperNOFA for them?

A: The first step is to request a copy of the SuperNOFA guidebook, entitled "**Connecting with Communities: A User's Guide to HUD Programs and the SuperNOFA Process**" by calling the **HUD Clearinghouse 1-800-HUD-8929 or 1-800-483-2209 (TDD)**. Nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding under some HUD programs. Some of the most popular programs that fund nonprofits and are announced in the SuperNOFA include:

- ◆ Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs
- ◆ Technical Assistance
- ◆ Fair Housing Initiatives Program
- ◆ Housing Counseling Program
- ◆ Section 202 Supportive Housing Programs for the Elderly
- ◆ Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities
- ◆ Self-Help Homeownership Opportunities Program
- ◆ Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency Program

Q: What specific steps should nonprofits take in preparing applications for grants announced in the SuperNOFA?

A: Here is what I strongly recommend:

1. **Analyze the NOFA.** Review the NOFA to identify the underlying goals of the particular program and the specific requirements and information the application asks you to submit. Make an outline of, or highlight, the key items.
2. **Collect good data and document the need** for the program you want to propose. HUD's 2020 software, which uses maps to show where federal dollars are at work in your community, is available in all 81 HUD field offices, and census data, available at your local library, are good places to start.
3. **Identify potential partners early** in the process and bring them to the table during planning. Your application is rated on how you leverage program funds with other resources in your community and how you document the commitment made by your community partners.
4. **Be clear about what you propose to do with the funds.** HUD wants to know what activities you will undertake, how much it will cost, the beneficiaries to be served and how it will address the need you described.
5. **Learn from previous best practices.** You can do this by looking at the "best practices" identified on HUD's web site, www.hud.gov/bpawards/states.html.
6. **Identify how your program works in conjunction with other programs going on in your community.** HUD is interested in having your proposed program be part of a holistic approach to meeting the community's needs as identified in the Community's Consolidated Plan or other neighborhood plans or strategies.

Q: What are the reviewers looking for in successful applications?

A: An effective application has a few key characteristics:

1. **READ the NOFA and follow the instructions carefully.** Make sure your proposal responds to the goals and objectives of the program you are applying for funding from. Also, avoid omissions and mistakes that can disqualify your applications.
2. **Make your application clear, concise, and convincing.** Respond to the items in the Factors For Award. This is how your application will be rated. Good writing helps.
3. **Develop your approach with well-defined, measurable goals.** Develop a standard for determining whether your use of the grant, if you receive one, meets your objectives and HUD's expectations based upon your application.
4. **Demonstrate your need for funding and your capacity to do the work.** A great idea won't be funded unless you can make the case that you have the capacity to use the grant money effectively.
5. **Submit a budget that makes sense.** The request should be reasonable and the numbers should all add up.

Let someone who is not familiar with your proposal read it. Have you convinced them of your ability to do the work and the need for the program? Can they describe how you are going to spend the money, your timetable and benchmarks for noting progress, and who will benefit from your program?

"Barbara Dorf" continued on page 3....

Center Participates in Technical Assistance Grant Awards

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development (CPD), Cardell Cooper, and Rev. Joe Hacala, Director of the Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships, welcomed this year's recipients of Technical Assistance grants at an awards ceremony in HUD headquarters, February 24.

Awarding over \$21.6 million to be used by recipients to provide training and consulting to organizations that receive HUD program grants, Father Hacala said: "These resources are one of HUD's greatest assets to empower community and faith-based non-profit groups, and ultimately, communities."

Assistant Secretary Cooper added: "Through technical assistance and collaborations, we can make sure that communities are able to face the challenge of revitalization with a complete set of tools and a strong base of support. [Technical assistance providers] are our partners who reach out to communities and provide the information and know-how necessary to develop strong, sustainable American Communities."

The Congress of National Black Churches, (CNBC) was featured prominently, as one of the 36 first time recipients of Technical Assistance funds. Out of 80 recipients named, 45% were first time award winners.

A complete list of awardees and contact information will be posted on the Center's web site in the near future.

Center Staff:

Joseph Hacala, S.J., Director
Jennifer Quinn, Deputy Director
Loyd LaMois, CB Fellow
Brian Siebenlist, Policy Analyst
Shannon Hefter, Outreach Specialist
Rhonda Dallas, Graduate Intern
Dorothy Matthews, Information Specialist

How Can You Learn More About the SuperNOFA?

- Access the wealth of information about the SuperNOFA available on HUD's "Homes and Communities" web page: <http://www.hud.gov/fundsavl.htm#grants>
- Contact your Community Builder and the local HUD Office. For contact information, see: <http://www.hud.gov/meetcb.html>
- Tune in to the satellite broadcasts sponsored by various HUD programs. A complete schedule of Satellite Broadcasts can be found at: <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/livecast.html>
- Call to receive a SuperNOFA Information Kit (Application and *Connecting with Communities* SuperNOFA Guide). Call the HUD Clearinghouse at **1-800-HUD-8929 or 1-800-2209 (TDD)**.
- Download SuperNOFA Standard Forms from <http://www.hud.gov/nofa00/stdforms.html>
- Find out what our most successful "Best Practices" are doing with HUD funding around the country on HUD's Best Practices Database: <http://www.hud.gov/whatwork.html>

...."Barbara Dorf" continued from page 2

Q: What if your application is not successful and you do not get a grant? What are the next steps?

A: First, request a briefing. You are entitled to receive a briefing from HUD staff that will tell you what reviewers thought were the strengths and weaknesses of your application. This briefing can be an incredibly valuable learning experience that will assist you in improving future funding applications.

Second, begin planning for next year. Year to year, the basic thrust of the programs, and the five factors (capacity; need; approach; leverage; and comprehensiveness) used to evaluate applications remain the same. This means that nonprofits can plan ahead to improve their chances for future funding with some level of confidence. Line up your partners, assemble your background data on needs, and further refine your approach. Use the information obtained in the briefing to prepare a more effective application the next time.

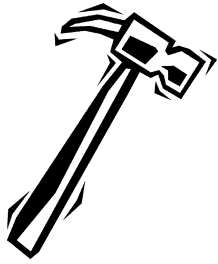
For more information, access the SuperNOFA web site at www.hud.gov/fundsavl.html.

Chicago, IL: Host of the Next Commitment to Justice Conference

The Center will hold its fourth in its series of "Commitment to Justice" conferences in **Chicago, IL on March 16, 2000**. The conference will draw some 300 participants from across the Midwest region.

The next conference is slated for **April 4-5, 2000 in Portland, OR**. A draft agenda and list of workshops, as well as materials from prior conferences have been posted at www.hud.gov/cdc/commjust.html. To obtain more information or to register, call 1-800-308-0395.





Center Toolbox: Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance Overview

HUD is determined to help communities create new growth and opportunity, rebuild and revitalize, and tackle tough problems as they see fit. At HUD, that means more than just providing financial resources through our programs. It means equipping communities with the guidance and support they may desire to make the most of those resources.

What is technical assistance?

The Community Development Technical Assistance programs, administered by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, are designed to improve the effectiveness of HUD grants which support the goals of good homes and supportive living environments for people of all income groups in viable and sustainable American communities. These technical assistance programs for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME, Supportive Housing (SHP), and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) help HUD program participants design and implement programs by providing specialized technical expertise and training.

Who provides technical assistance?

To help communities and program participants with ready access to the technical expertise they may want or need, HUD has created several technical assistance vehicles. Through a series of competitions for grants and contracts, HUD has gathered the resources of a number of firms so that they are on

call to provide guidance or training for program participants.

Technical assistance providers are firms, for profit and nonprofit, intermediaries, and government agencies that have demonstrated their expertise and their capability to provide the guidance and training Community Development program participants can use. HUD has also assembled a College of Experts from across the country. These are highly skilled professionals who are available to provide one on one expertise to communities to help them craft creative ways to accomplish local community development goals.

A complete list of technical assistance providers is available by accessing the web at www.HUD.gov/cpd/cpdta.html.

What kind of knowledge and skills can be tapped through TA services?

Through technical assistance, HUD has gathered resources on a broad range of issues which can address the multifaceted and complex challenges of rebuilding a community. We have expertise on addressing homelessness, creating and maintaining affordable housing, and spurring community and economic development.

Here is a sampling of some topics which HUD technical assistance providers can assist communities:

Homelessness Issues

Families - Youth - Mental Illness
Health Care - Safe Havens - Outreach - SRO - Veterans - HIV/AIDS - Substance Abuse - Job

Training - Rural Homelessness

Affordable Housing

Financing - Rehabilitation - New Construction - Tax Credits - Special Needs Housing - Management

Community/

Economic Development

Community Development - Micro-Enterprises - Small Business Development and Financing - Community Policing - Job Training - Infrastructure - Urban Planning - Brownfields Development

Technical assistance is also available through the Office of Public and Indian Housing and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at HUD.

How can you access technical assistance?

To find out more about technical assistance available in your area, call the Community Planning and Development (CPD) Director in your local HUD field office or call the **Community Connections Information Center at 1-800-998-9999** for further information. Technical assistance services primarily benefit communities and nonprofit organizations currently participating in and receiving funds through one of the Community Planning and Development programs.

Where else is technical assistance available?

Additionally, there is a tremendous amount of non-HUD funded technical assistance which can be found on the web. The following are examples:

Contact Gamaliel Foundation at:

Phone: (312) 357-2639

E-mail: gamalielus@aol.com

Contact Center for Non-profits at:

Phone: (732) 227-0800

E-mail: www.njnonprofits.org